

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 AGR-20 IO-12 AID-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 HEW-08 /182 R

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5/18/73 X-20842

APPROVED BY AF: DDNEWSOM

AF/ W: RKSHERWOOD

----- 110831

R 190042 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096492

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS, UV

SUBJECT: UPPER VOLTA AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU CALLS ON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM

PARIS FOR QUANTON

1. FOLLOWING SIX WEEKS ABSENCE ON CONSULTATIONS, YAGUIBOU
CALLED ON NEWSOM ON MAY 17. MUCH OF DISCUSSION DEALT WITH
VOLTAN INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. OTHER SUBJECTS
RAISED BEING REPORTED SEPTELS.

2. YAGUIBOU DESCRIBED INTERNAL DISRUPTIONS WHICH OCCURRED
DURING HIS VISIT TO OUAGA AS VERY SERIOUS. HE RELATED
STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS AND BLOODSHED PREVIOUSLY
REPORTED BY EMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU, ADDING THAT THE LAST
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STRIKE HAD AS ITS OBJECTIVE THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO. YAGUIBOU PROCEEDED TO READ THE ENTIRE TEXT OF A DISSIDENT TRACT CIRCULATING IN OUAGA, WHICH SHARPLY CRITICAL OF PRIMIN AND PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, SOMEWHAT LESS SO OF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. CLAIMING THAT HE SHOWED THE TEXT TO THE PRESIDENT JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, LAMIZANA ALLEGEDLY RESPONDED THAT THIS NOT THE FIRST SUCH INSTANCE NOR THE LAST, AND AS LONG AS "PRESENT GOVERNMENT" SUFFERS FROM INACTIVITY IT WILL GO ON.

3. NEWSOM ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT LAMIZANA WAS THREATENED BY THE UNREST. YAGUIBOU SAID NO, THAT LAMIZANA MANAGED TO STAY ABOVE THE FRAY BY ACTING AS THE ARBITER, THE RESPECTED OLD SAGE. AT THE SAME TIME, THIS POSITION IS FELT BY MANY TO BE HIS WEAKNESS, SINCE IT IS NOT VIGOROUS LEADERSHIP AND SEEKS ONLY COMPROMISES.

4. NEWSOM ASKED WHETHER THE DROUGHT HAS HAD ANY EFFECT ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION. YAGUIBOU SAID THAT IT HAD, VERY MUCH. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE PRIMIN AND SEVERAL MINISTERS, IN THEIR TRAVELS AROUND THE COUNTRY, HAD FREQUENTLY PRAISED US DROUGHT HELP. HE CITED GOUV' S PARTICULAR SATISFACTION AT THE USE OF LOME AND TEMA FOR INCOMING GRAIN, OBTAINING TRANSSHIPMENT THROUGH ABIDJAN. YAGUIBOU SAID THAT THE DAY HE LEFT THE PRIMIN EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE UPON RECEIVING WORD THAT A SHIPMENT OF US GRAIN WAS BEING UNLOADED AT LOME.

5. IN CLOSING, NEWSOM NOTED THAT WE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY CERTAIN REMARKS OF FONMIN CONOMBO OVER US ASSISTANCE. STRESSING THAT HE WAS NOT REGISTERING A PROTEST ABOUT CONOMBO, WHOM HE CONSIDERS A FRIEND, NEWSOM EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT RECENT EVIDENCE OF OUR ASSISTANCE HAS CONVINCED THE FORMIN OF THE US' S INTEREST IN UPPER VOLTA. YAGUIBOU RESPONDED BY REFERRING TO HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR EASUM IN OUAGA FOLLOWING THE FORMIN' S PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE US ON MEASLES VACCINE (OUAGA 579). HE SAID THAT, AFTER HIS TALKS WITH THE AMBASSADOR, HE HAD MET SEPARATELY WITH THE PRESIDENT, PRIMIN, AND CONOMBO ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SUBJECT. ALL AGREED THAT THE FONMIN' S REMARKS WERE THE RESULT OF HIS BEING MISINFORMED. YAGUIBOU REPEATED THAT THE PRIMIN IN HIS TRAVELS HAS BEEN PRAISING US ASSISTANCE, APPARENTLY IMPLYING THAT WE SHOULD WEIGH THE TWO SOURCES APPROPRIATELY. RUSH

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